



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 109th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 152

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2006

No. 123

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Reverend Anthony George, Pastor, Aloma Baptist Church, Winter Park, Florida, offered the following prayer:

Our Father in heaven, we come to You this day acknowledging Your greatness, thanking You for Your benevolent and providential guidance in the founding and sustaining of this great Nation.

In these times of uncertainty as nations rage against us, we humbly ask that You protect our people by Your intervening mercy, that You grant favor to our troops in their efforts to preserve the hope of freedom, and that You bless our President and the men and women of this Chamber in all their deliberations which they undertake for the safety and prosperity of our great country.

Help us in our efforts to eliminate poverty, oppression and wickedness, and empower us to pursue truth, justice and righteousness.

Though our sins are many, we ask that You show us mercy. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage that we fail not man nor Thee. In the name of Christ we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Florida (Mr. KELLER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KELLER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING PASTOR ANTHONY GEORGE OF ALOMA BAPTIST CHURCH

(Mr. KELLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to welcome today's guest chaplain, Pastor Anthony George of Aloma Baptist Church in Winter Park, Florida. Thanks to Pastor George's leadership, Aloma Baptist is making a difference in central Florida and beyond. Let me give you some examples.

When Hurricane Katrina hit a little more than a year ago, Aloma Baptist Church acted, immediately dispatching teams to the gulf coast to provide humanitarian relief. Today, 1 year later, teams from Aloma Baptist have stayed the course and are still helping our gulf coast neighbors rebuild. And in central Florida, through Aloma Baptist Great Days of Service campaign, church members have gone into my community and poured countless hours into efforts like feeding the homeless, volunteering at the Ronald McDonald House, and mentoring children at summer camps.

Mr. Speaker, my community and this country are better places today because this humble country preacher from Mississippi came to central Florida to serve God and serve people. Pastors from across the country could learn a thing or two from Anthony George about how to build a difference-making church.

PERILS OF AMATEUR STRATEGY

(Mr. SKELTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, in 1926, Sir Gerald Ellison published the book,

"Perils of Amateur Strategy," the subject of which was a disastrous British campaign at Gallipoli in 1915. Here we are, in 2006, and we find that the Bush administration is busy writing its sequel, "Perils of Amateur Strategy II," about the misadventure of the American attempt in Iraq. The high hopes of bringing stability and democracy are fading, mainly because of strategic mistakes that were avoidable.

These mistakes include the diplomatic failure to ensure passage for our troops through Turkey at an early phase of the war; disbanding the Iraqi army; failure to control the looting after the fall of Baghdad; the failure to secure the weapons caches; and of course the failure to use enough troops to successfully complete the mission.

In addition thereto, Mr. Speaker, on another subject, I note the failure of this Congress to fully implement the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission. Mr. Speaker, we must not adjourn until we pass those recommendations into law, which will prepare us against future terrorist attacks.

BULGARIAN MIRACLE CONTINUES

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today is a joyous day for the people of Bulgaria. This week, the European Commission recommended Bulgaria be admitted into the European Union in January 2007. In less than 16 years, Bulgaria has successfully transitioned from a Communist totalitarian regime into a free market democracy.

Just 3 years ago, I was honored to be at the White House with former Prime Minister Simeon Saxe-Coburg Gotha as Bulgaria was admitted into NATO. Bulgaria has proven to be a true ally in

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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the global war on terrorism, and Bulgarian troops have bravely served in Iraq and Afghanistan. There are currently plans for three U.S. bases to be located within Bulgaria.

Bulgaria has one of the fastest growing economies, and membership in the EU will accelerate its pace. Economically and militarily, Bulgaria is secure.

Congratulations to Prime Minister Georgi Parvanov, Prime Minister Sergey Stanishev, Ambassador to Washington Elena Poptodorova, and my longtime friend Ambassador to Athens Stefan Stoyanov.

I am grateful to serve with Congresswoman ELLEN TAUSCHER as cochair of the Bulgarian Caucus, promoting the growing partnership between Bulgaria and America.

In conclusion, God bless our troops and we will never forget September 11th.

THE TIME TO IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 9/11 COMMISSION IS NOW

(Mr. HASTINGS of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, according to the majority leader, the House will adjourn 2 days from now and take a political vacation for 6 weeks. We will do this despite the fact that we will leave 300 million Americans less safe than if we stay here and implement the recommendations of the bipartisan 9/11 Commission.

Continuing to do nothing in the face of continued threats to our people and our way of life is hardly what the American people elected us to do. The 9/11 Commission focused their recommendations into three broad areas: We need to attack terrorists and their organizations; we need to prevent the continued growth of Islamist terrorism; and we need to protect against and prepare for terrorist attacks.

It pains me to say, though the American people must know, this administration and this Congress have failed miserably on all three of these counts. Instead of going after terrorists, we invaded Iraq and have caused an all-out civil war there that costs American lives on a daily basis.

The war in Iraq has not prevented the growth of terrorism. We are learning now that it has actually enhanced the growth of terrorism. Instead of protecting and preparing for the next terrorist attack, we busy ourselves building partial "let's pretend" fences. I recommend and unanimously request that we consider the bipartisan recommendations of the 9/11 Commission, less jaw jacking and more action.

THE DEMOCRATS MAY NOT LIKE IT, BUT WE ARE WINNING THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR

(Mrs. MILLER of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the

House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, we have heard an awful lot in the last couple of days from the Democrats over the national intelligence estimate which partly says that our involvement in Iraq is creating a new generation of jihadist leaders.

What they fail to say is that the same NIE says that, I quote, "Should jihadists leaving Iraq perceive themselves or be perceived to have failed, we judge fewer fighters will be inspired to carry on the fight."

Mr. Speaker, I want to remind my colleagues that one of those new leaders cited in the report, Abu Musaab al Zarqawi, is now very much dead. Let's just say that he has failed.

The NIE says that the best way to kill the jihadist movement is to spread hope and democracy, which is exactly what we are doing in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Mr. Speaker, national security is the first and foremost responsibility of the Federal Government and of every Member of Congress, and we always need to put national security ahead of politics. And yet, the Democratic minority leader just last week said that she thinks that national security should not be an issue in this campaign.

She actually said that, that national security should not be an issue. Think about that.

HOMELAND SECURITY

(Ms. SCHWARTZ of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SCHWARTZ of Pennsylvania. Every day, Americans work hard to fulfill their obligations to their families, to pay their mortgage, to send their children to college, to save for retirement. Americans understand these priorities. At all times, but particularly at a time of war, Americans expect their leaders to understand that our priority should be securing our homeland. Yet this administration and the Republican Congress have no such plan.

The bipartisan 9/11 Commission noted, quote, "a lack of urgency" by this administration and the Republican Congress in addressing our homeland security vulnerabilities, and called their failures shocking.

Democrats have a plan to lead our Nation in a new direction. Democrats will immediately implement the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission. Democrats will secure our borders. Democrats will ensure that our police and firefighters can communicate with each other during times of crisis. And Democrats would never approve the sale of port security to a foreign nation. It is time for a new direction.

Americans deserve to feel secure and to know that our government is working hard to ensure that safety and security every day. Democrats know that

government's paramount responsibility is to defend our citizens. Democrats will keep our country safe.

THE PRESIDENT AND GAS PRICES

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address gas prices and the Democrats selective agenda on talking about them.

Up until recently, over the last year, gas prices have risen, and the Democrats jumped on this issue and played the blame game. They condemned President Bush repeatedly saying it was the President's fault.

The Republican-led Congress and administration began to explore new options to increase domestic output to help lower the cost at the pump. The Republican Congress continued their battle to open ANWR. Seventy-five percent of Alaskans want ANWR opened for oil exploration and all of the elected officials at the Federal level want it open. The area that would be explored is roughly the size of a postage stamp on a football field, yet the Democrats continue to obstruct this effort.

The Democrat solution to rising gas problems was not a policy or a proposal; it was simply "no" to Republican and administration proposals and blaming the President.

What astounds me so is now that the gas prices are falling, where is the Democrats' praise for the President's efforts? Gas prices are falling, and all I hear from the other side of the aisle are crickets.

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FIRST TEE BENEFITS INNER CITY YOUTH

(Mr. TANNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I come here this morning with the Congressional Roll Call Golf Cup here. We have Roll Call, a Capitol Hill newspaper here, which sponsors baseball games and football and basketball, and we have a Congressional Ryder Cup golf competition between the Democrats and Republicans every year. We recently had this for the First Tee organization. The First Tee organization and its president, Joe Louis Barrow, Jr., is an organization that brings golf and the skills and the character values that golf teaches people to inner city youth all across our country and to those who might otherwise not be exposed to the game.

May I announce that this is not a hard chore for me because the Democrats won this year for the first time ever.

I was privileged to serve as captain of the Democratic team, and Mike Oxley, who was tied up in conference and